

Appl. No. 09/700,585
Amdt. Dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 24, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P09430-US1
EUS/J/P/05-3121

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of providing information relating to a telecommunication call, in a telecommunication network, to a data storage system, the method comprising:

receiving caller identity information at an exchange of the network during a call set-up procedure between a calling device and the exchange, and storing the information at least temporarily at the exchange;

sending an incoming call alert message to a called device; and

prior to receiving a call answer message at the exchange outputting from the exchange to said data storage system a partial Call Data Record containing less call information than a normal Call Data Record.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the telecommunication network comprises a cellular radio telephone network and the call is made from a cellular radio telephone device.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the cellular radio telephone network is a GSM network and said exchange from which the partial Call Data Record is output is a Mobile Switching Center, the method comprising outputting from the Mobile Switching Center a partial Call Data Record comprising at least one of the subscriber telephone number, IMEI code, or IMSI code.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the telecommunication network comprises a fixed access network in which a telephone device is coupled to the exchange via land lines, the method further comprising outputting from the exchange at least the caller's telephone number (A-number).

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5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 further comprising outputting said partial call data record to an external billing system in direct response to receipt of a call answer message, wherein said partial call data record consists of the caller's A-number, the caller's International Mobile Subscriber Identity code, the called party's B-number and the call start time.

6. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for providing information relating to a telecommunication call, in a telecommunication network, to a data storage system, the apparatus comprising:

first receiving means for receiving caller identity information at an exchange of the network during a call set-up procedure between a calling device and the exchange, and for storing the information at least temporarily at the exchange;

transmitting means for transmitting an incoming call alert message to a called device;

second receiving means for receiving, in the event that the called device answers or otherwise accepts the incoming call alert, a call answer message sent to the exchange; and

output means for outputting, prior to receipt of said call answer message, from the exchange to said data storage system, a partial Call Data Record containing less call information than a normal Call Data Record.

7. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said first and second receiving means, said transmitting means, and said output means are provided as an integral part of the network exchange, said data storage system (10) is physically separate from the exchange and said partial Call Data Record is output from the exchange to said data storage system in response to receipt of said call answer message, wherein said partial call data record consists of the caller's A-number, IMSI code, called party's B-number and the call start time.

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8. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 6, the network comprising a cellular radio telephone network and said exchange being a Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) of the cellular network.

9. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication network having a plurality of interconnected exchanges for routing calls in the network, and a billing system coupled to each of said exchanges, each exchange comprising:

first receiving means for receiving caller identity information during a call set-up procedure between a calling device and the exchange, and for storing the information at least temporarily at the exchange;

transmitting means for transmitting an incoming call alert message to a called device or to a called device via one or more further exchanges;

second receiving means for receiving, in the event that the called device answers or otherwise accepts the incoming call alert, a call answer message sent to the exchange; and

output means for outputting, prior to or in response to receipt of said call answer message, from the exchange to a data storage system, a partial Call Data Record containing less call information than a normal Call Data Record.